

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

After amendment, claims 33-46, 50-63, 78-86, and 94-111 are pending. Claims 33-46, 94-110, 111/94, 111/95, 111/96, and 111/97 have been allowed. Claims 50-52, 78, and 111 have been amended. Claims 1-32, 47-49, 64-77, and 87-93 have been cancelled.

Amendment of the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct certain typographical errors. No new matter has been added by amendment of the specification.

Amendment of the Claims

Claims 50-52 and 78 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to include all the limitations of their base claims. Claim 111 was amended to eliminate dependence on a cancelled claim. No new matter has been added by amendment of the claims.

Rejection of Claims 47-49, 64-68, and 77 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as
anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,999

Without agreeing with the rejection and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 47-49, 64-68, and 77 without prejudice. Thus, in view of this amendment, this rejection is now moot.

Rejection of Claims 69-74 and 111/47 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as
anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,999

Without agreeing with the rejection and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 69-74 without prejudice. Likewise, claim 111 has been amended to eliminate its dependence on cancelled claim 47. Thus, in view of these amendments, this rejection is now moot.

Objection to Claims 50-63 and 78-86

The Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 33-46, 94-110, 111/94, 111/95, 111/96, and 111/97. The Examiner also stated that claims 50-63 and 78-86 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 50-52, and 78 accordingly. Claims 53-63 and 79-86 depend from claims 52 and 78, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn and that claims 33-46, 50-63, 78-86, and 94-111 be allowed.

Conclusion

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to efficiently advance the prosecution of this application.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response; please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (067949-5025).

Respectfully submitted,
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